

--1. (Amended) A method for characterising nucleic acid molecules, which comprises the steps of:

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① i) introducing a modified base which is a substrate for a DNA glycosylase into a DNA molecule;

ii) excising the modified base by means of said DNA glycosylase so as to generate an abasic site;

D2 iii) cleaving the DNA at the abasic site so as to generate and release an extendible upstream DNA fragment having a 3' hydroxyl terminus; and

iv) incubating the released extendible upstream DNA fragment in the presence of an enzyme allowing for extension thereof and an additional template nucleic acid and analysing resultant fragment(s).

12. (Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein the extendible upstream fragment is incubated in step iv) with the polymerase in the presence of one or more nucleotide(s).--
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